

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A charge eliminating mechanism for a stage for a work-to-be-processed, comprising:

a grounded wiring line having a first end and a second end, the second end being grounded; and

a mechanical switching mechanism arranged between the stage and the first end of the wiring line,

wherein the mechanical switching mechanism of the charge eliminating mechanism comprises:

a contact terminal including a contact terminal main body, a third end, and a fourth end, the fourth end being electrically connected to the first end of the wiring line, and a contact state between the third end and the stage being physically turning on/off, and

when the third end is in contact with the stage, the stage is grounded through the third end of the contact terminal, the contact terminal main body, the fourth end, the first end of the wiring line, a resistor, and the second end of the wiring line, and

wherein at least one of the contact terminal and the stage includes an elastic contact mechanism to cause the third end of the contact terminal and the stage to come into elastic contact with each other by moving the stage in X and Y directions.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A charge eliminating mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the stage is rotatable in forward and reverse directions, and the elastic contact mechanism provided on the stage is a charge eliminating plate with spring properties formed on a side surface of the stage.

6. (Original) A charge eliminating mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the elastic contact mechanism provided on the contact is a POGO pin.

7.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A testing apparatus comprising a charge eliminating mechanism for a stage for a work-to-be-processed, which tests electrical characteristics of a work-to-be-processed, the charge eliminating mechanism comprising:

a grounded wiring line having a first end and a second end, the second end being grounded; and

a mechanical switching mechanism arranged between the stage and the first end of the wiring line,

wherein the mechanical switching mechanism comprises:

a contact terminal having a contact terminal main body, a third end, and a fourth end, the fourth end being electrically connected to the first end of the wiring line, and a contact state of the third end with respect to the stage being physically turned on/off, and

when the third end is in contact with the stage, the stage is grounded through the third end of the contact terminal, the contact terminal main body, the fourth end, the first end of the wiring line, a resistor, and the second end of the wiring line, and

wherein at least one of the contact terminal and the stage includes an elastic contact

mechanism to cause the third end of the contact terminal and the stage to come into elastic contact with each other by moving the stage in X and Y directions.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A testing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the stage is rotatable in forward and reverse directions, and the elastic contact mechanism provided on the stage is a charge eliminating plate with spring properties formed on a side surface of the stage.

12. (Previously Presented) A testing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the elastic contact mechanism provided on the contact is a POGO pin.

13. (Previously Presented) A charge eliminating mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the work-to-be-processed is a work to be tested, and the wiring line includes a resistor between the first and second ends .

14. (Previously Presented) A testing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the wiring line includes a resistor between the first and second ends.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A charge eliminating mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the third end is configured to contact an outer perimeter side surface of the stage in order to ground the stage.

17.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A testing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the third end is configured to contact an outer perimeter side surface of the stage in order to ground the stage.

Application Serial No. 10/790,038
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2007

21.-22. (Canceled)